

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing this application in a telephone interview with the undersigned representative. Applicants have amended both claims 18 and 19 to recite that the peptide is either 4 or 5 amino acids long to comply with the Examiner's suggestion that providing this structural feature would facilitate allowance of the claims. Applicants retain the option of pursuing broader claims in a later application. Support for the amendment may be found in the specification on page 2, formula I, which provides for peptides having 5 amino acids when X is an α -amino acid and peptides having 4 amino acids when X is a single bond.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 18 and 19 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 18 and 19 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

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Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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